



Emerging Issues Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2008

Summary

Emerging Issues Subcommittee Members in Attendance (7):

Meena Shahi (Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services)
Wendy Wolfersteig (Arizona State University, Arizona Prevention Resource Center)
Phillip Stevenson (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)
Richard Porter (Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Vital Statistics)
Judith Fritsch (Department of Economic Security, Community Partnerships and Innovative Practices)—via conference call
Mona Polacca—proxy for Alida Montiel (Inter Tribal Council of Arizona)
Michelle Anderson (proxy for—and replacing—Julie Treinen) (Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections)

Emerging Issues Subcommittee Members Absent (8):

Dennis Embry, Chair (PAXIS Institute)
Wanda LeClere MacDonald (Navajo Behavioral Health Services, Navajo Nation)
Joan McNamara (Pima County/Tucson Commission on Drug Addiction and Prevention, Compass Health Care)
Jerry Boehm (Arizona Council of Human Service Providers)
Jody Sekerak (Indian Health Services)
John Morris (Yavapai County Drug Courts)
Christina Cutshaw (University of Arizona)
Charles Katz (Arizona State University, Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network)

Governor's Office Staff (1):

Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF)

Public (1):

Michelle Neitch, (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)



Call to Order was made by Phillip Stevenson at 1:08 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

- Phillip Stevenson asked the attendees and guests present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Following suggested changes to the meeting minutes from group members, including the correction of Richard Porter's name being moved from "Public" to "Emerging Issues Subcommittee Members in Attendance," Richard Porter motioned for an acceptance of the January, 2008 meeting minutes; Meena Shahi seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved with no dissenters.

Announcements

- Michelle Anderson reminded the group of the upcoming Spring '08 conference entitled "Managing and Overseeing Evaluation Projects" to be held May 16th in Tucson, Arizona.
- The group was notified that, pending ASAP approval, David Choate will be serving as co-chair of the subcommittee, working in tandem with Dr. Dennis Embry and filling in for him when he is unavailable.
- Michelle Neitch updated group on the status of AYS survey efforts:
 - A few schools are still administering the survey.
 - The 2008 administration began with 110,000 surveys. When blank surveys were returned to ACJC along with the completed surveys, those blank surveys were sent out again. No blank surveys remain.
 - Mike Brown approved the administration of the AYS in ADJC youth facilities.
 - The last administration of the survey in ADJC schools was done in 2004 when the Director of the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) at ACJC was Steve Ballance.
 - This survey was not administered in all ADJC schools.
 - The survey is being revised and submitted for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. Revisions are being completed to make the survey more culturally-competent for this population and include:
 - The language related to past 30-day use is being modified as some youth have been residing in the settings for more than 30 days, necessitating asking the question in a different way, such as use in the 30-days prior to residing in the ADJC facility.
 - Question will be asked about whether family members are or have been incarcerated (i.e. two separate questions, one asking if the youth has any family members that have been incarcerated in the past and the other asking if the youth has any family members who are currently incarcerated).
 - These questions will be positioned in the survey with the family living arrangement questions.
 - Mona Polacca mentioned that Chinlee, Arizona and Kayenta, Arizona would like to participate in the survey.



- Phillip Stevenson indicated that although the current administration is almost complete and the supply of surveys has been exhausted, he would be willing to have someone go to these two schools in a non-survey administration year (i.e., in the fall of 2008) to administer the survey to them. Data would not be shared with anyone other than the participating schools and the data collection could be considered part of the capacity building project currently underway by the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona contracted through the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, Division for Substance Abuse Policy.
 - The AYS was instituted in one district using an online version.
- Jeanne Blackburn discussed expanding the membership of the Emerging Issues Subcommittee and asked for input from the group on contacts for people from the following areas:
 - Phoenix Police Department
 - Meena Shahi will provide a contact.
 - Treatment System
 - It was suggested that Lisa Shumaker at DBHS be contacted for the name of an appropriate treatment professional.
 - School Resource Officer
 - Jeanne Blackburn will ask a member of the Governor's staff for a contact.
 - Individual in recovery
 - Jeanne Blackburn will contact either Tom Kelly from DBHS or Aimee Amado from DES for the name of an individual.

Update on Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group/ASAP

- Phillip Stevenson updated the subcommittee on the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group and the ASAP.
 - ASAP will focus on four strategic focus areas in 2008, which are:
 - The Need for Treatment within the Child Welfare System
 - The Need for Data Driven Decision Making and Policy Development
 - The Need to Enhance Law Enforcement Capacity to Respond to the Importation of Illicit Drugs and the Manufacture of Synthetic Drugs within Arizona
 - Emerging Issues and the State's Capacity to Respond
 - Executive Action Briefings (EAB) have been written by James Copple of Strategic Applications International for the first three strategic focus areas, with the EAB for the Emerging Issues strategic focus area forthcoming.
 - These EABs serve as directives for each area, indicating the problems within each substantive area, outlining the necessary actions to be taken and naming the parties responsible for such action.



Emerging Issues Work Plan: 2008

- Jeanne Blackburn compiled a work plan for the group that will serve to organize their deliverables.
 - The group commented on the work plan and changes will be made to it based on this input.
 - Work plan may change after the EAB is completed, as it may uncover projects not already on the document.

Trend Projects: Children's Bipolar Disorder and Rx Drug Abuse

- The group had been asked to bring their ideas about future trend projects/fact sheets to the meeting. The ideas that were put forth were:
 - Prediction models (potentially using risk and protective factors)
 - Trends in substance abuse, etc. over time (e.g., 2002; 2004; 2006; and 2008 Arizona Youth Survey data)
- Further discussion on this topic was tabled until the next meeting due to Dennis Embry's absence.

Focus Group Results

- Another conference similar to the conference at which the previous focus group was held (i.e., a conference inviting youth in recovery) will be held in either June or July in northern Arizona by the Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA).
 - Jeanne Blackburn will contact Nitika Singh of DBHS for more information, which she will forward to the group.
- Further discussion on this topic was tabled until the next meeting due to Dennis Embry's absence.

Life Path Project

- Richard Porter suggested that red arrows or some other indicator be inserted into the timeline of the Life Path project at the points at which the youth came into contact with various state systems to indicate where opportunities may have been missed to help the youth.
- Michelle Anderson will add data to the project that reflect the monetary costs associated with probation/community placements.
- The group needs assistance with determining the costs of DES care for these youth.
 - Jeanne Blackburn will contact Judith Fritsch to ask for her assistance in adding this information.
- Phillip Stevenson posed the question of whether ADJC can determine the marginal costs of providing services to youth in their system. That is, he questioned whether the monetary cost of correctional officers, housing, administrative support, etc. can be determined on a per child basis.
- Michelle Anderson asked the group whether suspensions/expulsions from school should be added to the youths' life paths.
 - The group agreed that this information should be added.



Canary Survey

- This topic was tabled until the next meeting due to Dennis Embry's absence.

Call to Public

- No one from the public had any comment.

Adjourn at 2:52 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF).